

Remarks

Introduction

Claims **1-52** are canceled.

Applicant presents new claims **53-121** for consideration. This reflects 69 dependent claims and 9 independent claims and a claim fee of \$1600.

Applicant hereby respectfully requests examination and reconsideration of the pending claims in light of the amendments and remarks provided herein and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.112.

New Claims

Applicant presents new claims **53-80**. Independent claims **53, 71, & 72** are substantially identical allowing for differences dictated by differences in statutory classes.

Support for new claims **53-80** may be found in at least paragraphs 0021 and 0022 and claim **17** of the application as filed. No new matter is added.

Support for new claims **81-121** may be found in at least paragraphs 0107-0143 of the application as filed. No new matter is added.

The Office Action's Rejections

The rejection of the previous claims is moot in light of the newly presented claims. Applicant appreciates the Patent Office's repeated indication that the breadth of the claims allowed what Applicant considered to be an overly broad interpretation of certain claim elements. Applicant has herein presented new claims **53, 71, & 72** which recite:

defining a team of players, wherein membership in the team is independent of gaming devices on which the players play;

allowing members of the team to participate jointly in determining a single outcome for the team by:

accepting a first input from a first player at a first gaming device;
accepting a second input from a second player who is not the first player, the second player at a second gaming device which is not the first gaming device;

generating the single outcome for the team, and presenting the single outcome to the team as if the single outcome were a function of the first input and the second input, wherein the single outcome indicates a team payout for the team and is not formed from outcomes that define individual payouts.

The references of record do not teach defining a team whose membership is independent of the gaming devices on which the players play.

The references of record do not teach that members of this defined team may participate in jointly determining a single outcome for the team.

The references of record do not teach generating the single outcome for the team and presenting the single outcome to the team as if the single outcome were of function of the player inputs.

Applicant has further clarified that the first player is not the second player and that the first gaming device is not the second gaming device explicitly in each of the independent claims.

Applicant has also further clarified that the single outcome is not formed from outcomes that define individual payouts on the players' respective gaming devices.

New claim **73** is directed to clarifying the nature of the input and that the input is not a symbol on a reel or a card/hand in video poker.

New claim **80** is a more detailed claim for the grid embodiment.

New claim **81** is directed to the use of team tracking cards and how comp points are awarded to the team based on the team tracking cards.

New claim **90** is directed to the earning and redemption of team comp points.

New claim **99** is directed to the provision of gaming records to the player.

New claim **112** is directed to determining whether an individual game play contributes to team play.

Applicant respectfully maintains that the new claims fall within the scope of the original restriction and also address many of the concerns that the Examiner has raised concerning the breadth of the original claims while remaining true to the intent of the original claims.

Conclusion

At least for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance, or in better form for appeal, and the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Alternatively, if there remain any questions regarding the present application or the cited reference, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Taylor M. Davenport at telephone

number 203-461-7228 or via electronic mail at tdavenport@walkerdigital.com, at the Examiner's convenience.

Authorization to Charge Fees

Applicant does not believe an extension of time to make this Amendment and Response timely is necessary. However, should an extension of time be necessary, please grant a petition of an extension of time necessary to make this submission timely. Additionally, please charge any fees, including the \$1600 excess claim fee, that may be required for this submission as follows:

Deposit Account: 50-0271

Order No. 03-068

Charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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